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ABSTRACT

The Community Profiles Project uses data from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policy makers and practitioners in developing programs and policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective. This profile focuses on Quincy. The 5,490 Asian Pacific Americans recorded by the Census as living in Quincy represented 6.5% of that city's population, an increase of over 7 times since the 1980 Census. Three-fourths of the Asian Pacific Americans in Quincy were Chinese. Older adults were far less proficient in English than were children and young adults. Household income reflected some wide disparities, with the percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the lowest income categories less than that of all other groups. The percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the highest categories was also less than that of Whites and the total population. Asian Pacific American male unemployment rates were less than those for Whites, Blacks, Latinos, and the total population, but female unemployment rates were higher than for those groups. Fewer than one third of all Asian Pacific Americans in Quincy were enrolled in school, and a particularly large proportion of those enrolled were in elementary or high school. A substantially higher proportion of Asian Pacific Americans than of the general population had at least a ninth-grade education, and a smaller proportion of Asian Pacific Americans than other groups in Quincy were high school graduates. These data reflect the diversity of the Asian Pacific American population in Quincy, but support the fact that the per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans in Quincy was considerably less than that of Whites. (Contains nine figures and eight tables.) (SLD)

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Asian Pacific Americans in Quincy.
Community Profiles in Massachusetts

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COMMUNITY PROFILES IN MASSACHUSETTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS *in Quincy*

INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES • UMASS BOSTON • BOSTON, MA 02125

The Community Profiles Project utilizes data drawn from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policymakers and practitioners in developing programs and constructing policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective.

The Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston brings together resources and expertise from both the campus and community to conduct research on Asian Pacific American issues, to expand Asian American studies in the curriculum, and to support community development initiatives in Asian Pacific American communities in Massachusetts.

Project Staff: Project director: Paul Watanabe. Principal researchers: Carlton Sagara and Joanne Chow. Design and Production: Shauna Lo and Marilyn Wu.

Support provided by: The Boston Foundation.

(P4.8.95)

I. Population Characteristics

Table 1. Population by Race*

White	78,129
Asian Pacific American	5,490
Black	852
Other	427
Native American	87
TOTAL	84,985

*Latinos may be of any race

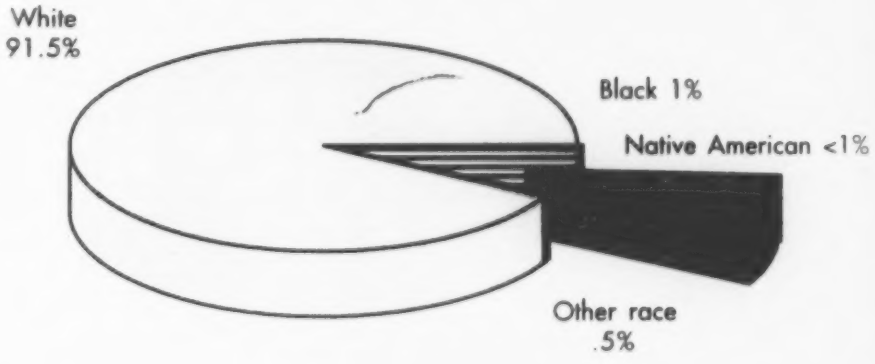


Figure 1

• The 5,490 Asian Pacific Americans recorded in the 1990 census as living in Quincy (Table 1) accounted for 6.5% of the city's residents (Figure 1). The number of Asian Pacific Americans in Quincy increased by over seven times during the 1980's.

• Chinese accounted for three-fourths of the Asian Pacific American population (Table 2). Vietnamese, Filipinos, Asian Indians, Koreans, and Cambodians were also well-represented in Quincy.

• The Asian Pacific American population was nearly equally divided between females and males overall and in most age groups (Figure 2). It was also relatively young (Figure 2).

• Dramatic differences were found in the English language proficiency of older and younger Asian Pacific Americans (Figure 3). Among those 65 years old and over, for example, two-thirds were not proficient in English. For individuals 5 to 17 years old, one-quarter were not proficient.

Table 2. Ancestry of Asian Pacific Americans

Chinese	4,144	75.5%
Vietnamese	451	8.2%
Filipino	329	6.0%
Asian Indian	240	4.4%
Korean	95	1.7%
Cambodian	95	1.7%
Other Asian	47	0.9%
Guamanian	26	0.5%
Thai	25	0.5%
Japanese	24	0.4%
Hawaiian	14	0.3%
Laotian	0	0.0%
Samoan	0	0.0%
Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
TOTAL	5,490	100.0%

Figure 2. Asian Pacific Americans by Sex and Age

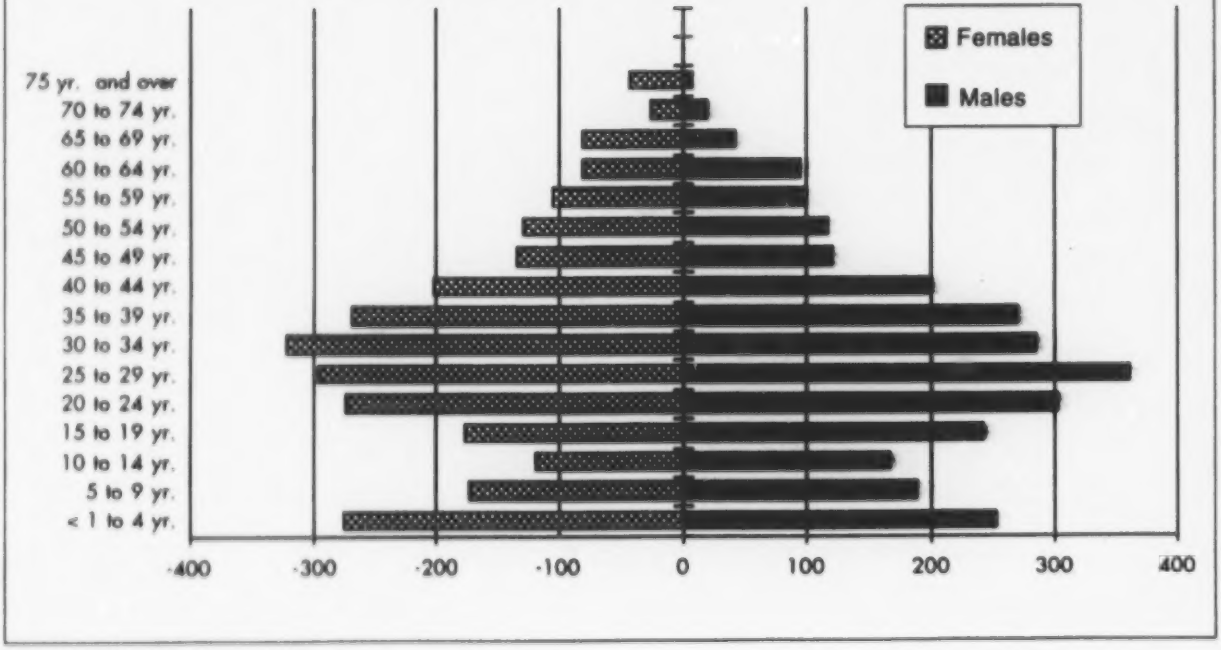
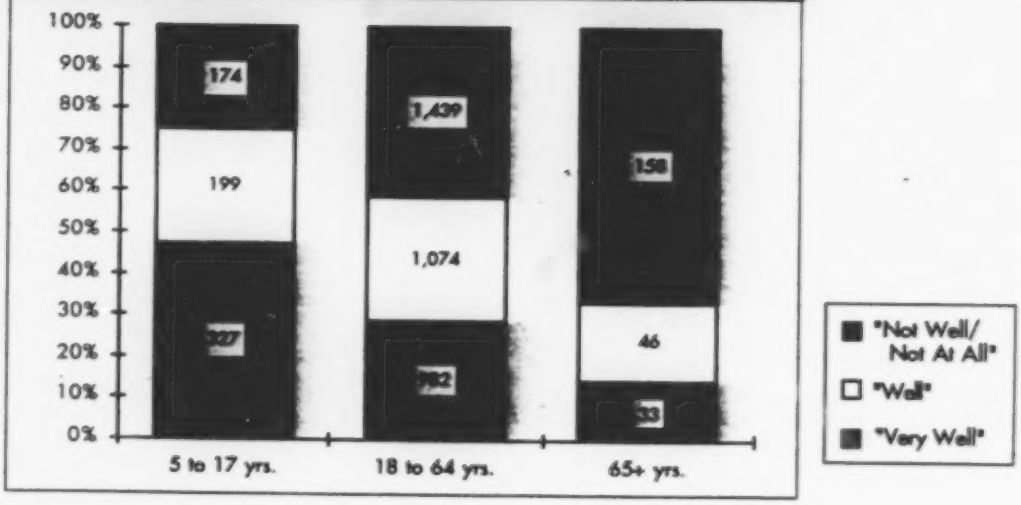


Figure 3. Enalish Proficiency Among Asian Pacific Americans



II. Income

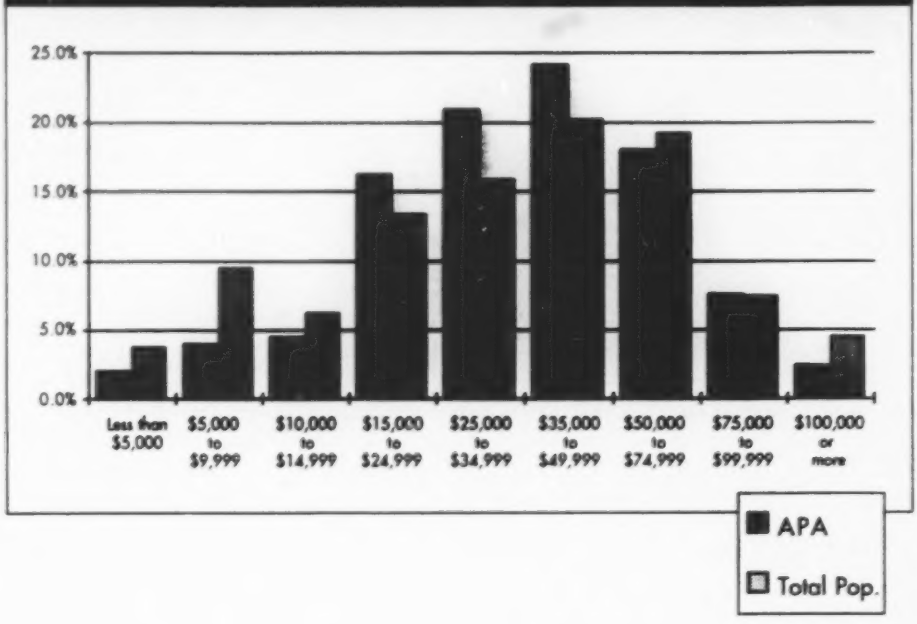
Table 3. Household Income by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than $5,000	32	1,284	19	0	9	18	1,344
	2.1%	3.8%	5.7%	0.0%	6.3%	4.0%	3.8%
$5,000 to $9,999	60	3,213	45	15	22	71	3,355
	4.0%	9.6%	13.6%	34.9%	15.4%	15.8%	9.4%
$10,000 to $14,999	68	2,084	54	0	5	21	2,211
	4.6%	6.2%	16.3%	0.0%	3.5%	4.7%	6.2%
$15,000 to $24,999	242	4,412	41	10	44	139	4,749
	16.2%	13.1%	12.4%	23.3%	30.8%	30.9%	13.4%
$25,000 to $34,999	313	5,230	66	9	7	67	5,625
	21.0%	15.6%	19.9%	20.9%	4.9%	14.9%	15.8%
$35,000 to $49,999	361	6,769	39	0	29	53	7,198
	24.2%	20.2%	11.8%	0.0%	20.3%	11.8%	20.2%
$50,000 to $74,999	270	6,511	34	9	16	64	6,840
	18.1%	19.4%	10.3%	20.9%	11.2%	14.2%	19.2%
$75,000 to $99,999	112	2,486	27	0	11	17	2,636
	7.5%	7.4%	8.2%	0.0%	7.7%	3.8%	7.4%
$100,000 or more	36	1,569	6	0	0	0	1,611
	2.4%	4.7%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%
TOTAL	1,494	33,558	331	43	143	450	35,569
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Latinos may be of any race

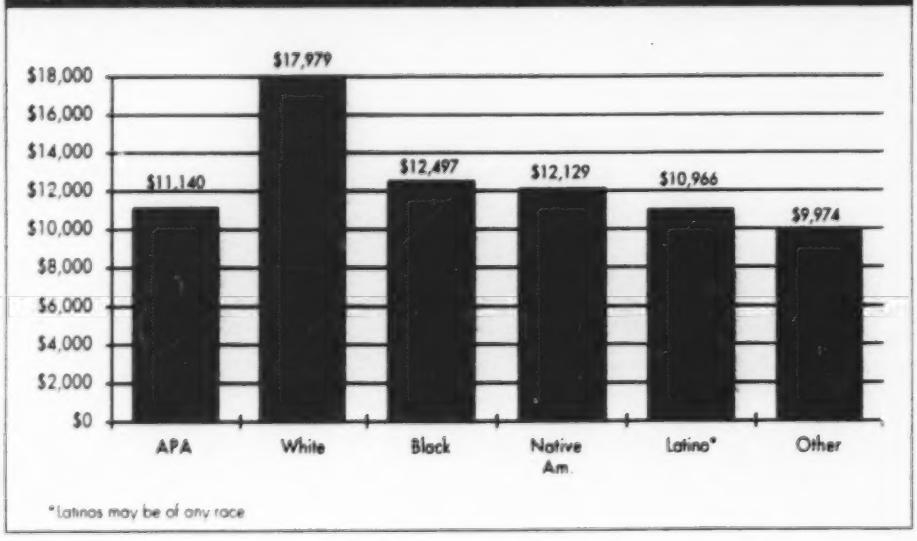
• Household incomes of Asian Pacific Americans reflected some wide disparities (Table 3 and Figure 4). For example, the percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the lowest income categories (those making $9,999 and less) was less than that of all other groups and the total population. The percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the two highest categories (those making over $75,000) was less than that of whites and the total population.

Figure 4. Household Income for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population



• The per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans was considerably less than that of whites (Figure 5), less than that of Blacks and Native Americans, and slightly higher than that of Latinos.

Figure 5. Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity



• A much larger portion of Asian Pacific Americans in poverty was less than 18 years old compared with whites and the total population (Table 4). Asian Pacific Americans over 65 years old, in contrast, constituted a much smaller percentage of those in poverty compared with whites and the total population (Table 4).

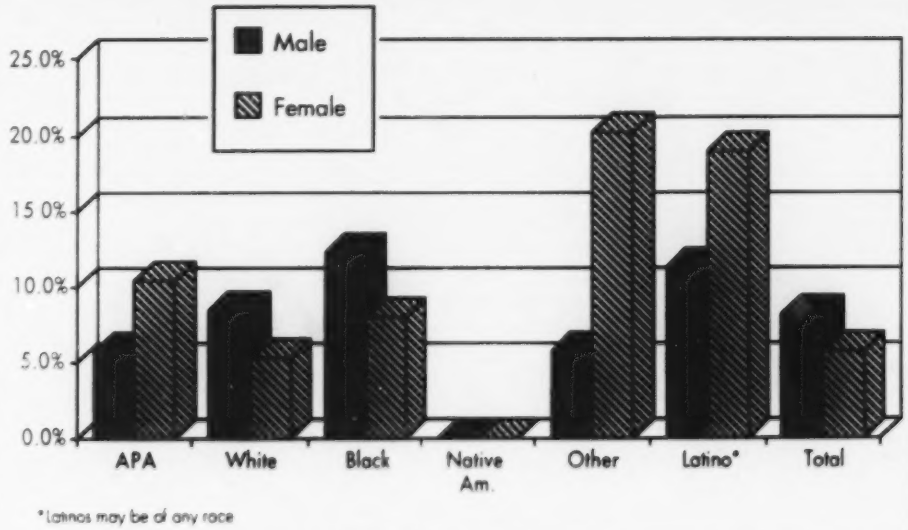
Table 4. Poverty Status by Age by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat.Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Under 5 years	66	464	48	0	27	51	605
	21.3%	9.3%	21.2%	0.0%	23.9%	20.2%	10.6%
5 years	13	112	0	0	0	7	125
	4.2%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	2.2%
6 to 11 years	26	417	44	24	12	29	523
	8.4%	8.3%	19.5%	55.8%	10.6%	11.5%	9.2%
12 to 17 years	0	252	8	13	7	15	280
	0.0%	5.0%	3.5%	30.2%	6.2%	5.9%	4.9%
18 to 64 years	186	2,561	126	6	57	118	2,936
	60.0%	51.1%	55.8%	14.0%	50.4%	46.6%	51.4%
65 to 74 years	19	534	0	0	10	28	563
	6.1%	10.6%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	11.1%	9.9%
75 years and over	0	675	0	0	0	5	675
	0.0%	13.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	11.8%
TOTAL	310	5,015	226	43	113	253	5,707
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

III. Employment

Figure 6. Unemployment Rate By Sex, Race and Ethnicity



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• Asian Pacific American male unemployment rates were less than those for whites, Blacks, Latinos, and the total population (Figure 6 and Table 5). Asian Pacific American female unemployment rates, however, were higher than those for whites, Blacks, and the total population.

• The labor force participation rates of Asian Pacific Americans were comparable to those for all groups and the total population (Table 5).

Table 5. Labor Force Attachment for Persons 16 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Males	2,149	30,384	278	26	107	363	32,944
In Armed Forces	0	193	8	0	0	12	201
Civilian: Employed	1,736	21,444	194	26	83	259	23,483
Civilian: Unemployed	106	1,951	27	0	5	33	2,089
Not in labor force	307	6,796	49	0	19	59	7,171
Male Unempl. Rate#	5.8%	8.3%	12.2%	0.0%	5.7%	11.3%	8.2%
Participation Rate@	85.7%	77.5%	81.9%	100.0%	82.2%	83.2%	78.1%
Females	2,107	36,512	379	24	210	510	39,232
In Armed Forces	0	23	0	0	0	0	23
Civilian: Employed	1,336	21,338	252	15	99	270	23,040
Civilian: Unemployed	156	1,183	22	0	25	63	1,386
Not in labor force	615	13,968	105	9	86	177	14,783
Female Unempl. Rate#	10.5%	5.3%	8.0%	0.0%	20.2%	18.9%	5.7%
Participation Rate@	70.8%	61.7%	72.3%	62.5%	59.0%	65.3%	62.3%

#Unempl. Rate = (Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl. + Civilian Unempl.)
@ Participation Rate=(Civilian Employed+Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl.+Civilian Unempl.+Not in Labor Force)

*Latinos may be of any race

IV. Education

Table 6. School Enrollment of Persons 3 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
In Preprimary School	85	1,237	23	0	35	45	1,380
	1.7%	1.6%	3.0%	0.0%	8.7%	4.5%	1.7%
Elem. or High School	955	7,751	91	37	37	80	8,871
	18.6%	10.2%	11.9%	42.5%	9.2%	8.0%	10.8%
Enrolled in College	634	6,694	173	0	89	163	7,590
	12.4%	8.9%	22.6%	0.0%	22.2%	16.2%	9.3%
Not Enrolled in School	3,448	59,941	477	50	240	717	64,156
	67.3%	79.3%	62.4%	57.5%	59.9%	71.3%	78.2%
TOTAL	5,122	75,623	764	87	401	1,005	81,997
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

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Figure 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older for Asian

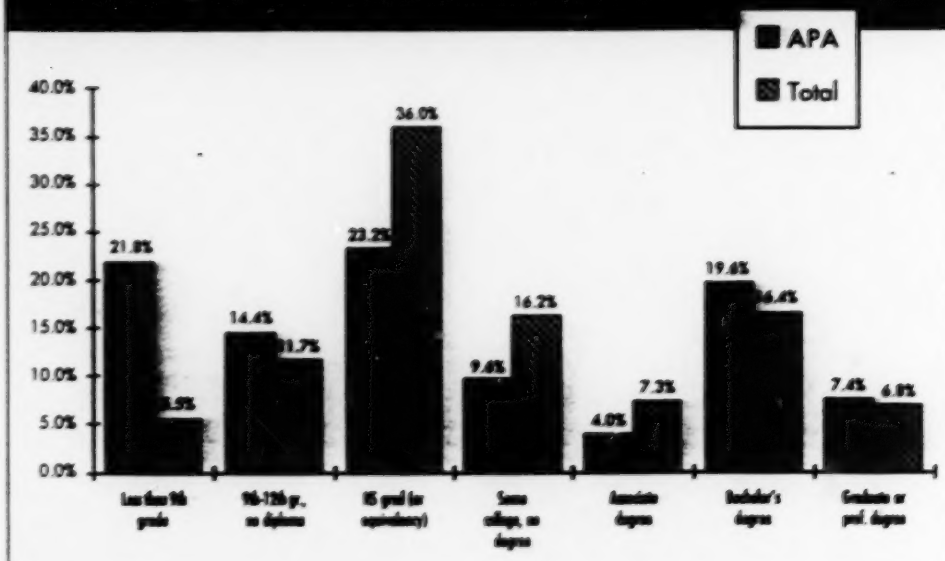

Table 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than 9th grade	721	2,521	35	10	50	84	3,337
	21.8%	4.5%	7.7%	20.0%	20.7%	11.7%	5.5%
9th-12th gr., no diploma	478	6,547	49	0	13	75	7,087
	14.4%	11.6%	10.8%	0.0%	5.4%	10.4%	11.7%
HS grad (or equivalency)	770	20,785	102	31	59	176	21,747
	23.2%	36.9%	22.6%	62.0%	24.5%	24.5%	36.0%
Some college, no degree	317	9,332	113	0	51	194	9,813
	9.6%	16.6%	25.0%	0.0%	21.2%	27.0%	16.2%
Associate degree	132	4,223	21	0	31	45	4,407
	4.0%	7.5%	4.6%	0.0%	12.9%	6.3%	7.3%
Bachelor's degree	649	9,157	65	9	13	87	9,893
	19.6%	16.2%	14.4%	18.0%	5.4%	12.1%	16.4%
Graduate or prof. degree	245	3,799	67	0	24	58	4,135
	7.4%	6.7%	14.8%	0.0%	10.0%	8.1%	6.8%
TOTAL	3,312	56,364	452	50	241	719	60,419
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

- Less than one-third of all Asian Pacific Americans were enrolled in school (Table 6). A particularly large percentage of those enrolled were in elementary or high schools.

- The educational attainments of Asian Pacific Americans over 25 years old departed from those of the total population at several levels (Figure 7 and Table 7). For example, a substantially higher percentage of Asian Pacific Americans had less than a 9th grade education (21.8% for APA's compared with 5.5% for the total population). A smaller proportion of Asian Pacific Americans were high school graduates compared with the total population.

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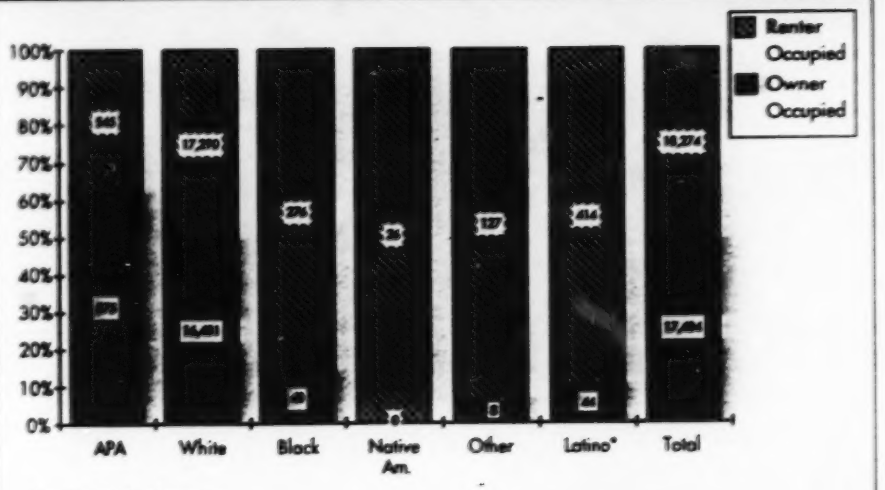
V. Housing

- The owner-occupancy rate for Asian Pacific Americans was higher than that of all groups and the total population (Figure 8).

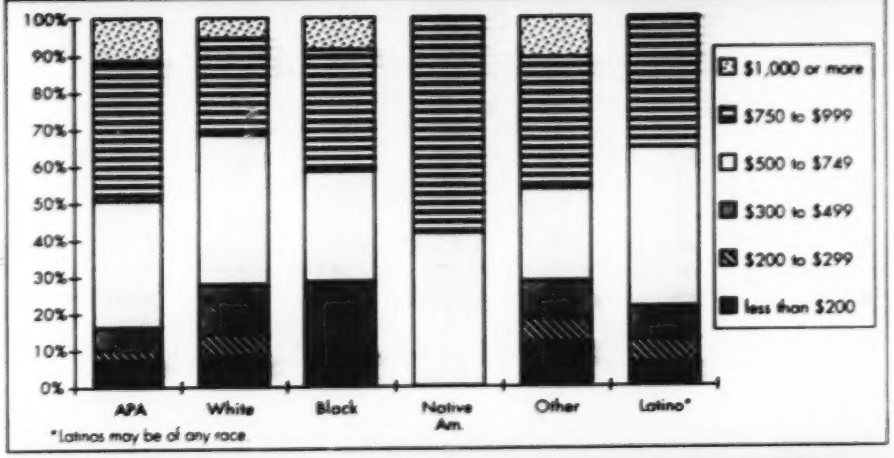
- The proportion of Asian Pacific Americans who paid rents $500 and over was the highest of any group (Table 8 and Figure 9).

Figure 8. Rental and Owner Occupancy By Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

Figure 9. Gross Rent By Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

The 1990 U.S. Census data allows for the examination of the situation of Asian Pacific Americans and provides the most comprehensive available information on this group. The data, however, does have some limitations. Linguistic, cultural, and other barriers contributed to an undercounting of Asian Pacific Americans in the 1990 Census. Furthermore, by aggregating Asian Pacific Americans together, differences between nationalities were often muted. Errors in coding also limited the reliability of some data on Asian Pacific Americans.

Table 8. Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*
less than $200	37	1,407	27	0	15	25
$200 to $299	16	1,034	0	0	8	26
$300 to $499	33	2,239	52	0	13	37
$500 to $749	184	6,897	82	15	32	179
$750 to $999	202	4,443	91	21	45	143
$1,000 or more	62	932	24	0	14	4
No cash rent	11	303	0	0	0	0

*Latinos may be of any race

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